

NOTICE OF DECISION AND STATEMENT OF REASONS

Regulations 274(1)(a) of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020 (EP Regulations)

Name of proposed action	Singleton Horticulture Project
Proponent	Fortune Agribusiness Funds Management Pty Ltd
NT EPA reference	EP2022/019
Description of proposed action	<p>Development of a horticulture project on Singleton Station, proposed in four stages over nine years.</p> <p>The proposed activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• land clearing 4,037 ha• horticultural production over 3,300 ha• staged annual groundwater abstraction up to 40,000 megalitres• accommodation and services hub for 150 staff and families and 1,350 seasonal staff
Nature of the proposed action	Agriculture
Decision	To extend the specified period for consultation on the referral, to 55 business days
Person authorised to make decision	Dr Paul Vogel AM – Chairperson, as delegate of the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA)
Signature	
Date of decision	22 November 2022
Matters considered	<p>The NT EPA has received an application from the proponent to extend the specified period for consultation on the referral to 55 business days. In making its decision, it considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the substantial size of the documentation• the timing of the statutory consultation period for the referral, ending mid-December

Statement of reasons

Reasons

Under regulation 274(4)(a), the NT EPA considers that an extension of a specified period is necessary to meet the objects of the Act (section 3 of the *Environment Protection Act 2019*). In particular, the extension is necessary:

- Section 3(d) to provide for broad community involvement during the process of environmental impact assessment
- Section 3(e) to recognise the role that Aboriginal people have as stewards of their country as conferred under their traditions and recognised in law, and the importance of participation by Aboriginal people and communities in environmental decision-making processes.

Under regulation 274(4)(b), the NT EPA considers that an extension of a specified period is consistent with the purpose of the assessment process under section 42 of the Act. In particular, the extension is necessary to ensure that:

- Section 42(d) the community is provided with an opportunity to participate and have its views considered, in decisions on proposed actions.

Conclusion

The NT EPA considers that the extension of the specified period for consultation on the referral to 55 business days is necessary and approves the proponent's request.